Approved for Release: 2019/05/03 C01245234 25 AUGUST 1960

~~SECRET~~

SUBJECT: Political Action in the Congo

1. As the Designated Representatives are aware, we have provided limited non-official financial support to moderate political elements in the Congo in an effort to establish an effective counter-balance to the extremist tendencies of the Lumumba government. The rapidly deteriorating situation has reinforced the desirability of this program.

2. The Embassy in Leopoldville was recently approached for support in an anti-Lumumba campaign by the Chief Advisor to the Christian Trade Unions in the Congo, a Belgian national. His program calls for an anti-Lumumba campaign and support of a broad coalition of political parties. He is active in organizing labor and youth movements, and will distribute anti-Lumumba and anti-Communist tracts. His program plans to replace Lumumba with Joseph Ileo, President of the Congo Senate, whom we have provided with modest unofficial support as noted in paragraph 1 above. [redacted] it will require three months for his program to achieve its objective of replacing Lumumba with a pro-Western government. Sizable financial support has been requested to launch the program in the youth and labor fields.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~

(1)

Approved for Release: 2019/05/03 C01245234

Approved for Release: 2019/05/03 C01245234

3. In view of the rapid swing of the Lumumba government toward a pro-Communist, anti-Western orientation it is considered that this proposed program merits financial support. It must be recognized that this individual is most probably receiving some measure of covert assistance from the Belgian Government. It is not believed, however, that this should be a deterring factor in the developing situation.

[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

5. In addition to these developments, the Embassy in Leopoldville has been approached for financial support by a Congolese Senator, prominent as a labor leader and political figure in Ileo's party, the M. N. C. (Kalonji). This individual is attempting to organize sufficient opposition to Lumumba in the Senate to make possible the passing of a no-confidence vote. He needs financial aid in order to swing critical votes for this motion.

[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

Approved for Release: 2019/05/03 C01245234